

Supervisor Romaine and Town Board Adopt Groundbreaking Geothermal Code

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Farmingville, NY - At the May 21 Town Board meeting, Supervisor Ed Romaine and the Town Board adopted the Suffolk County Planning Commission's Geothermal Energy Code that helps evaluate proposed geothermal systems in residential and commercial settings. The new code, which is based on an initial code developed and adopted last year by the Town of Brookhaven, was a joint effort between the County and the Long Island Geothermal Energy Organization (LI-GEO). It is designed to remove the complexity of installation approvals by identifying relevant municipal concerns, identifying standards to be used in all installations, and allowing for a more streamlined code and application process that is at once more relevant and more targeted than current building codes and permit processes. Geothermal systems utilize the constant, below-ground temperature to heat and cool buildings and homes to save energy and money. Supervisor Romaine said, "The Geothermal Code developed by the Town was groundbreaking in itself and now it has been strengthened through further input by the County Planning Commission and their partners. By adopting this new code, we take another step forward to decrease our carbon footprint while making great strides in our long term plans to make Brookhaven Town and Long Island a greener place to live." Suffolk County Planning Commission Chairman David L. Calone said, "Brookhaven played a leading role in helping develop the regional model geothermal code and so it is fitting that they are the first municipality to complete the renewable energy 'trifecta' by adopting all three Suffolk County Planning Commission regional renewable energy model codes - solar, wind, and geothermal. Kudos to Supervisor Ed Romaine and the entire Town Board for their leadership in advancing the simultaneous goals of job creation and environmental protection." The new Brookhaven Town Geothermal Code is designed to be flexible and adaptable and serves as a starting point to guide municipal review, approval and installation of geothermal systems. This code sets up basic design, construction, certification, and installation standards developed by government and private industry in Suffolk County, and will help set up a basic review process a municipality should follow, along with identification of the various national standards that should be followed and certifications necessary. The code is designed to allow for conceptual approval of the system and allow it to be reviewed by a building inspector and be subject generally to just a simple building permit. For more information about the Town of Brookhaven's Geothermal Code, visit www.brookhaven.org.

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